
EPISTLE TO THE TORIES.

WE here present you with a Medal of an Heroick Author, which most properly belongs to you; (he being at this time hired to Lye and Libel in your service) and in his last Essay, has perform'd it so dully, that if you put him away (as it is said of the Gentleman-Usher and the Doctor in the Rehearsal) No body else will take him; No, No body else will take him. We cannot say his Portraiture is done at the full length, or has all its Ornaments, since there are many touches to be added to it, which we shall reserve for the occasions he shall give us hereafter. But we dare say, these rough strokes have made the lineaments and proportions so true, that any one that knows him, will find there is a great resemblance of him; and will believe that he has ~~face~~ above five times for it. Though indeed he is so liberal of shewing himself, that in an hours space, he will expose all his Parts; and a good Drawer, in that time, may observe enough to make a *
Nuditie of him.

* So the Painters call a naked Picture.

You may know he is no concealer of himself; by a story which he tells of himself, viz. That (when he came first to Town) being a young raw fellow of seven and Twenty, as he call'd himself when he told the story, he frequenting but one Coffee-house, the Woman (it seems finding him out) put Coffee upon him for Chocolate, and made him pay three pence a dish for two years

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together : till at length, by what providence I know not, he discovered the Cheat. This stupidity were incredible, if he had not told it of himself publickly: but there is somewhat to be said for it; for (as he said of himself at the same time) the opening in his head (which in Children usually closes about the age of three) did not close in him till he was seven and twenty; which may be the reason he has had such a devilish soft place there ever since.

There are several Witnesses that heard these things from him publickly. There are a multitude of notable Sayings upon himself, which we may present you when he shall provoke us to show you his Life at full length.

This may give you some taste of his Distraction and Judgment. But you who have had his Conversation, know he is so lumpsb and stegmatick, or arrogant and silly, that he never pleases you with, or makes you merry at any thing but his folly.

As for ready Wit, he carries very little or none about him; but, if you draw a Bill upon him, like a Banker, he can answer you at home and, as Bankers do, with the Cash that is other Mens.

Whoever has been conversant with Spanish, Italian, French, and Classick Authors, will find all that's tollerably good in him in some of those; he can, indeed, new trim, and disguise a little, the Clothes he steals.

He has an easiness in Rime, and a knack at Versifying, and can make a slight thing seem pretty and clingnant; and his Fort is, that he is an indifferent good Versificator.

If at any time he has Wit of his own, 'tis in Rayling, when the venom of his malice provokes his fancy. His Panegyricks are full of such nauseous flattery, that they are Libels; and he is now become so infamous, that his Libels will be thought Panegyricks.

His prostituted Mule will become as common for hire; as his Mistress Revelia was, upon whom he spent so many hundred pounds; and of whom (to shew his constancy in Love) he got three Claps, and she was a Bawd. Let all his own Romanticke Playes shew so true and so Heroick a Lover.

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You who would know him better, go to the Coffee-house (where he may be said almost to inhabit) and you shall find him holding forth to half a score young fellows, (who clap him on the back, spit in his mouth, and loo him on upon the Whiggs, as they call 'em). puffed up, and swelling with their praise: and the great Subject of his Discourse shall be of himself, and his Poetry; What Diet he uses for Epick, what for Comick; what course he is in for Libel, and what for Tragedy.

He has never been conversant in any Science but Poetry: Philosophy, of all sorts, he has an aversion to, having no rational or argumentative head; but, if he be any thing he is a meer Poet: and from such an Animal, libera nos, &c from a man of one business, as the Italian Proverb says.

'Tis not two years since he consulted with an Eminent and Learned Physician of this Town; telling him, he was obliged to write a Play, and finding himself very dull, desired he would prescribe him a Diet, and course of Physick fit for his Malady: the Dr. merrily asked him Whether 'twas Comedy or Tragedy he designed: he answered, Tragedy; the Dr. replied, The Steel Diet was most proper for Tragedy; whereupon, the Poet desired to have it prescribed, and did undergo it for six weeks.

Before the writing of the Medal, he might e'n as properly have been prescribed a Diet of Brass: for (to use his own expression) never was there practised such a notorious piece of Impudence in the face of an Established Government, as the villanous Libelling so great a Peer, so instrumental in the restoring of the King, who has so deservedly born, and so faithfully discharged such great Offices in the State; and, who is still (in spite of Popish Clamours, and false Witnesses) ready upon all occasions, to serve his Majesty and the Kingdom, with the highest Loyalty and Integrity.

Consider what Stripes the Varlet deserves, for giving him these words in his Libel; Monster, Base within, Counterfeit and light, Rebel, Vermin, Lewd, Villain, Wretch, Knave, Impious, Fiend, Jehu, Traiterous: lays Curses on his hated Name: nor can his Gout scape him, but he must be call'd Formidable

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midable Cripple. *The unpunish'd audaciousness of this frontless Scribler, would be a reproach to any Government; and therefore no man can think him too hardly dealt with in the following Medal; especially, since he knows, and so do all his old acquaintance, that there is not an untrue word spoken of him.*

There is not so vile an employment, as that of a Hired Libeller, an Executioner of mens Reputations; the Hangman is an Office of greater Dignity. Were all which your Poet says of this great Peer true, yet the Libeller ought to be whipt out of a Countrey for his Insolence: but what does he deserve, when he himself knows every word of it to be false! and scarce a Papist in England believes any thing of it to be true.

He is as unlucky in his allusion to the Turks wearing of Scanderbegs Bones; as he is afterwards in his bungling Simile, about the feign'd Association. They were the Turks, Scanderbegs Enemies, that wore his Bones; and therefore he thinks this Lords Friends must do the same.

According to the example which he cites you, Tories should do it, and I doubt not but ye would be glad on't; but we hope he will last, till by a happy Agreement of the King with a Parliament, your Party will hide their heads, or become of no signification; which for that very reason ye endeavour all ye can to obstruct.

I know not what good his Bones might do ye, were he dead; but I am sure his Brains, while he is living; would be very much to the advantage of the best of ye: those would keep ye from the ridiculous Follies and mad Extravagancies ye daily run into.

'Tis you that are apparently the Faction; since ye are the Few that have divided from the Many. 'Tis you who in your Factionous Clubs vilify the Government; by audaciously railing against Parliaments, so great and so essential a part of it. They ought to lose the use of Speech, who dare say any thing irreverently of the King, or disrespectfully of Parliaments.

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If any thing could make the King lose the love and confidence of his people, it would be your unpunish'd boldness, who presume to call the Freeholders of England the Rabble, and their Representative a Crowd, and strike at the very Root of all their Liberty. Ye are those who abuse our gracious Prince, and endeavour to delude him with false Numbers, and promising to serve him when ye have no Interest, as in all the frequent Parliaments (his Majesty has been pleased to promise us) will plainly appear.

If any thing could dishonour him, it would be the bloody violence of your Spirits, your unpunished Exorbitances, and breach of Laws; your Huzzaing, Roaring, Quarrelling, and Damning by much the greater part of the Nation, and their whole Representative Body. Who made ye Judges in Israel? but whatever ye might have been in Judea, ye will find very few of ye will be made, in England, Trustees for the Liberty of the people, as your Poet says, who (as if he had been hired for the whole Popish Plot) vilely casts dirt upon the best reformed Protestants in his next Page.

That Beza has been charged by the Papists for having instigated Poltrocius Mercus to Assassinate the Duke of Guise, is readily acknowledged; but withal, we know how usual, and how meritorious a thing it is with them, to brand Protestants with whatsoever they can suppose will render them odious. Nor was this Calumny so much fastened by them upon Beza, as upon the Admiral Coligni, who was known to be a man of more Verue and Honour, than to allow the least accession to so base a Crime. Had this vile Libeller but common honesty and ingenuity, he would (at the same time he presumes to revive this calumnious Accusation) have taken notice of the vindication which the Admiral published to justify his innocency. Vide Stat. Repub. & Relig. in Gall.â, part 2. p. 358.

And for Buchanan, the character which Archbishop Spotswood has given of him, is enough to secure and preserve his memory from the stains which such Fellows as this, or any Enemies to truth
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and Learning, could throw upon him. Nor will Calvin lose the reverence he has from good Protestants, for this Libeller's mercenary Reproaches.

For the Association, which he next mentions, dropt out of the Clouds, entred into, and subscribed by no body, and seen by no one of our Party that ever we could hear of, (and we believe, by none of yours, but those that contrived the putting it into the Earls Closet) it renders you more ridiculous and extravagant than ever ye were ; to set up an Abhorrence through all England, of a Paper, which you can lay to the charge of no Party, nor at one single mans door.

But we doubt not but if you had found or put the Libel your Poet was Cudgell'd for (though few of your Loyal Closets, perhaps, are without that, and other Libels upon the King) into the Earls Closet ; ye would have set up an abhorrence of that, rather than not have kept up the Fermentation and Division amongst the people. When this is run out of breath, we suppose ye will set up the Ticket for the Forbidden Dinner, and ye will abhor Factious, Schismatical, Seditious, Fanatical, and Rebelious Dining, or some new Red-Herring out of his Lordships Kitchen will come forth.

The insolence in the same page of your Libeller, in comparing the Jury (that gave in Ignoramus to the Bill against our Noble Peer) to a Jury taken out of Newgate, deserves the Pillory, since 'tis evident to the whole City, they were all men of singular Honesty and Integrity in all their dealings, of signal good Lives, of good Understandings, and of great Wealth ; and, in the Memory of man, the City has not seen a Jury better qualified ; nor was there one Dissenter amongst them, to prevent your weak Cavils ; Cavils, I say ; for it had been no Objection if they had been all so, since they value their Oaths and Consciences as much as any sort of men, and have no Dispositions to go against them.

And this Clamour against the Jury, is because they would not believe an incredible matter from incredible Witnesses, who either were then, or had been lately, most of them Papists ;
who

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who were inconsistent in their Testimony with one another and themselves, that I am confident not one of the reverend Bench believed them: if they did, they must be very shallow, and must take this Lord to be little better than an Idiot. If ye look upon the Oath of a Grand Jury-man, ye will find that the meaning of those two words *Billa Vera* is, they do believe the matter of the Bill in their Consciences to be true; which if they did not, they must have been perjur'd if they found the Bill. The Law provides, that in capital Cases, a man shall not be wrongfully accused, and therefore appoints two Juries, both which are bound to find according to their belief; and the injustice is as great, though the injury be less, for the former to accuse by Indictment, if they believe the party innocent, as for the latter to hang him with the same belief.

If ye had had the disposal of the Juries, we doubt not but there are Conspirators would have found Witnesses to have sworn that most of the Nobility and Gentry who have been zealous and active against Popery, had entered into this feigned Association. Heaven keep us from Juries, such as will give 800 l. damages to a Powder-monkey, without any Dammage proved, (for words spoken by a Magistrate in rebuking the saucy Fellow) as if it were *Scandalum Magnatum* to abuse a Tory, though a seller of Wash-balls: And from that which gave 1000 l. to a Knight for being called Papist, whom it would not, perhaps, have cost 100 l. if he had been convicted: Or 500 l. to a notorious Varlet, for being six hours detained by a Messenger, (after notice of the Dissolution of a Parliament) and perhaps no legal notice neither. Our Juries are zealous to preserve the Innocent, and yours to ruine and destroy them.

To see what manner of Spirit it is that actuates ye; and by the Fruits we can guess whether it be good or evil: it seems to us to breath forth nothing but Ruine, Murther, and Massacre. And, for your understanding, 'tis sufficiently shewn, by your professing to believe a Protestant Plot (to Seize and Depose the King, and destroy the Government) without any other Circumstance proved, than that of a Joyner riding with Sword and
Pistols

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Pistols to Oxford, who had used to ride so armed many years before; and yet ye have the face to deny a Popish Plot, (for the destruction of the Kings Person and Government) after Coleman's Letters, and the others published by the Recorder (by command from the House of Commons); the Murther of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, the Assassination of Mr. Arnold: After a general Report among the Jesuites in all forein Popish Countries, of the Kings being dead (it seems they thought themselves cock-sure) at the time Dr. Oates swears he was to be murther'd here; and a multitude of other convincing Circumstances, which were of that force, that there were at least ten of the Kings Proclamations that affirmed it, a publick Fast was enjoyned for it, and three successive Parliaments, nemine contradicente, upon a full hearing of the Evidence, reading all the Letters, and weighing all the Circumstances, declared it to be a horrid Conspiracy against the Kings Life and Government What impudence or Stupidity is this, let the world judge!

Now, Tories, fare ye well; apply your heads to thinking a little, and do not, like young Whelps, run away with a false Scent, and cry out Forty One and Ignoramus; and in time ye may be wiser; and let your Poet know, that the first occasion he gives, he shall hear from us farther.

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